At the late Pittsburg Convention (Free Democracy), he openly united himself with them, being made one of their Secretaries. He professes, indeed, to have changed his own views, & to regard the U.S. Constitution as *Anti-Slavery*, and therefore as worthy the support of Abolitionists. But he knows he is pledging himself to support men, who regard it as based upon ~~[illegible]~~ compromises with Slavery, who have declared that all the North desires is *to be let alone*, and who have professed their readiness to do and yield all which the Constitution demands; men who have declared themselves willing to go on in *a Union* with the slaveholding States, provided they would keep their slavery & slaves to themselves, and not encroach upon the rights & privileges of the Northern people. He has lost the glory & the strength of a position founded on *principle* – on the great, apostolic principle of "no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness". – He is losing the confidence of the best & most intelligent of the colored people. It is a sore trial, with our small numbers, to see some of the ablest of the old host swallowed up by the temptation *to compromise* – the besetting sin of the country, the "great American devil", as Caleb Stetson called it. – What is more strange, Gerritt Smith has publicly declared himself as of that party! This fact is enough to account for Douglass's last leap. The Liberty Party, and the Liberty League, and every vestige of Gerritt Smith-ism, ~~is~~ are now wholly swept away. I do not regard that as any cause of regret. It will simplify the matter, and take away a specious, but wholly baseless, form of anti-slavery politics, & put *all* *political* action upon one foundation, viz. Support of the Compromises with Slavery, as existing in the Constitution, so long as the Constitution stands; – at least, the Oath to do so, with a settled purpose to break it whenever it can be done, with a reasonable prospect of success, and without hazard!

Sept. 1st. I had intended that this should go by the Steamer leaving Boston to-day; but repeated interruptions prevented my finishing it in season for the Mail which should have taken it from this town yesterday. — In the N. Y. Evening Post, which I recd. today I find the following, which shows the ~~place of the~~ ~~origin of~~ quarter in which the story about Ellen Craft originated;—

SAVANNAH, ~~April~~ 27. (Aug.)

The Macon *Journal* has hoisted the Webster flag.

The same paper states that Ellen Craft, the fugitive slave, is now in London, having entered the service of an American gentleman, on the condition that he restored her to her owner, Dr. Collins, in Macon.

The story is utterly absurd in itself, and coming through the roundabout channel of the Macon (Georgia) Journal loses all claim to be believed. Had there been a word of truth in it, I think few would have known it sooner than you; and I think you would not have left us long in ignorance.

I am very glad you have ~~seen~~ been to Ireland. My four days' stay in Dublin were very precious to me, and are deeply fixed in my memory. The men to whom I was introduced there — the Webbs, J. Haughton, & R. Allen particularly — interested me very much; and their modest, but earnest, devoted, & persevering labours in every good work commanded my high admiration. They were men to love, and feel at home with. — I also, through their attention, obtained the opportunity of standing almost near enough to touch Dan'l. O'Connell, in the Corn Exchange, when he made one of his fullest & ablest speeches upon American Slavery — that in which he replied to the Cincinnati Repeal Association, repudiated their alliance and aid, and denounced their slavish & contemptible sentiments. I doubt not you have enjoyed your visit there, and that it was equally enjoyed by them. I hope you were none the worse for it, in body or mind, and that you are safely & comfortably at home again; — whence I shall desire a letter from you, provided you can give it without taxing your leisure & strength too much, and will expect it till I see it.

I must not omit to thank you for *the recipe*, which I had put up (in Boston). The Apothecary had no difficulty about it, our physicians, I believe *universally*, writing their prescriptions in abbreviated Latin; it having been regarded quite impertinent for patients to wish to know what they were required to swallow. — We shall certainly use your medicine, when we have need for such a treatment. — For all your many attentions, & acts of kindness, I do most heartily thank you — yourself & Miss Estlin also. — We never meet you; perhaps we shall never see you again upon the earth. But we feel that you are amongst our nearest friends, and we feel that the acquaintance, correspondence, and friendship, with yourself and with her, have been, and are, among our choice privileges and satisfactions.

I have obtained a copy of Horace Mann's Speech entire; though not in a very attractive form, it is the only one yet published.

My wife and daughter Ade. send their best love to your daughter & yourself, and with sincere regard & respect,

I am, Yours,

Saml. May, Jr

Ms. B.1.6 v.14, p.80